

New Jersey Department of Agriculture

Division of Animal Health

Memo

To: New Jersey Veterinarians

From: Dr. Manoel Tamassia, DVM, M.S., PhD., Dipl. ACT, State Veterinarian
Director, Division of Animal Health

Date: December 28, 2015

Re: Pennsylvania Dept. of Agriculture Confirms 3 Cases of EHM; NO KNOWN CASES in NJ

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture confirmed on December 24 that 3 horses at a Bucks County horse farm were euthanized due to infection with the neurologic form of EHV-1 (EHM). The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has quarantined the farm from the first signs of disease. Trace back information indicates one of the affected horses was in a show in New Jersey 10 days prior to the onset of the disease. The New Jersey Department of Agriculture is in contact with the exposed farm and is monitoring for any signs of the disease. **Currently there is no sign of the disease in New Jersey since the potential exposure 16 days ago.**

EHV-1 spreads quickly from horse to horse, has a high morbidity, and can cause a wide range of symptoms from a complete lack of clinical signs, to respiratory problems (especially in young horses), and spontaneous abortions in pregnant mares. Transmission of the virus is mostly via direct contact with infected materials; therefore, tack must not be shared between horses and biosecurity measures must be utilized. While highly infectious, the virus does not persist in the environment and is neutralized by hand soap, alcohol-based hand sanitizers, and sunlight. More information on the Equine Herpes Virus can be found at the New Jersey Department of Agriculture website (<http://www.ag.state.nj.us/>).

EHM is a reportable disease and must be reported to the Division of Animal Health at 609-671-6400. The NJ Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory (609-406-6999) recommends PCR testing for horses exhibiting neurological signs.

EHV-1	Neurologic PCR (\$50.00) Whole blood PTT*/Nasal swab, brain tissue, spinal fluid	EHV-1 SN titer (\$15.00) 1 ml serum, w/cold pack	1 - 3 days
-------	---	---	------------

Contact Dr. Amar Patil (609) 671-6405 or via email at amar.patil@ag.state.nj.us

*PTT-purple top tube

Laboratory specimen(s), along with a laboratory submission form, may be sent to:

(If sent via courier service):
NJ Department of Agriculture
Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory
NJPHEAL, 3 Schwarzkopf Drive
Ewing, NJ 08628

(If sent via U.S. Postal Service):
NJ Department of Agriculture
Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory
P.O. Box 330
Trenton, NJ 08625

Laboratory submission form can be found at <http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/ahdl/>

Please note: the Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory will be closed
December 25, 2015 & January 01, 2016.